

Aspirations and Adventures of a Young Avocado

Written by

Esmeralda Osejo and Daniel Street

Character list:

AVOCADO (talking plant with a male voice)
LIV (woman in her mid-30s)
SEAN (man in his early-40s)
BEN (man in his mid-30s)

Copyright (c) 2021

EXT. DREAMY TROPICAL ORCHARD - SUNSET

Somewhere in tropical America, the sea rushes under a warm-coloured sky, extending behind a group of gorgeous, huge avocado trees in bloom. The humid wind shakes their leaves, petals and pollen. A dreamy sight.

INT. LIV AND SEAN'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Somewhere in snowy UK, a young avocado plant stands in a red pot against the cold windowsill of a flat's dining room. Only about a meter tall, it already looks like a miniature avocado tree. Behind the plant, a woman in her mid-30s, LIV, talks to her friend, BEN, also mid-30s. She used to be lively like her name, but now her eyes only show dwelling sadness and dissatisfaction.

LIV

But why won't he just propose?

BEN

But don't you think breaking up is an over-reaction? I mean you have to understand that he has priorities and getting married might not be first on his list...

Liv moves closer to the avocado, sighing as she looks out the window.

LIV

Yeah, that's the problem.

BEN

I guess at least you don't have to share the custody of a dog. You only have that thing.

(pointing at the
avocado plant)

Anyway what's the point of growing an avocado in the UK? And who's gonna keep it if you split up?

Liv looks taken aback.

LIV

Our love for avocado was the first thing that brought us together.

INT. SMALL COSY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: "FIVE YEARS AGO"

A sparkly-looking Liv and a lively man in his mid-30s, SEAN, enjoy Mexican guacamole and nachos with salsa and cheese. Soft music plays in the background. They stare at each other lovingly, clearly enjoying each other, the romantic atmosphere and the food.

INT. LIV AND SEAN'S FLAT - DAY: PRESENT

Liv dismisses the memory, angry.

LIV
Yeah, I guess it will go in the bin then. My mom hates plants anyway - and Sean couldn't care less.

The avocado shudders.

AVOCADO
(male voice)
In the bin?! Do you not know of my ancient lineage? Are you gonna bin the knowledge my species has accumulated over thousands of years?

Liv ignores the avocado. Ben drinks his coffee as if no one had spoken. Sean enters the flat. He looks stressed, but his stress turns into anger as soon as he notices his girlfriend's guest.

SEAN
(to Ben)
Oh, I didn't know you were here.

LIV
Hello to you too.

Ben empties his coffee mug in the sink.

BEN
Don't worry. I was just leaving.

Ben leaves hurriedly as Sean is throwing his stuff on the table. Liv looks at the coffee going down the sink.

LIV
(mumbling)
Just like our relationship.

SEAN
What did you say?

LIV

Nevermind. How was your day, honey?

AVOCADO

Of course, change the subject. Why would you face the problem?

Liv glances sideways at the avocado. Sean, who can't hear it, is visibly stressed.

SEAN

Same shit as usual. Fucking John did it again. He keeps shifting the damn targets, it's bloody impossible in that place - I don't know how I'm meant to cope with that level of corporate fucking greed. I've got no bloody money and I'm working my balls off for that arsehole, they want the earth for nothing in return. I just want to be on a beach, not dealing with his crap day after day in dreary bloody Middlesbrough.

Liv stares at him with blank eyes, drifting off, unable to handle the stress that listening to his negativity causes her.

AVOCADO

Typical.

SEAN

Anyway, I've got a banging head, I need to lie down. Tomorrow will be a tough day, I need some down time in a darkened fucking room. You're welcome to join me if you want to.

LIV

Yeah, sure. I just need to do a couple of things and I'll be with you.

Sean grunts.

SEAN

Yeah, right. I won't wait.

He leaves without waiting for an answer and she returns to look out the window.

LIV

(to the avocado)

Can you believe that? So rude. He never has time for me! I don't get why he can't be a normal boyfriend!

AVOCADO

He is, in fact, quite normal for your society. His worries over his downtrodden status as a low paid male breadwinner are taking their toll on you both. His concept of masculinity is threatened by both your friend, Ben, and your desire for love and stability.

Liv nods hesitantly, pouring over the words of the avocado.

LIV

I guess...

AVOCADO

The construct of masculinity is an absurd concept anyway; like all those gender-based roles and expectations. It's the 21st century, for goodness sake.

LIV

Well... I don't care. I've been waiting long enough. If he doesn't propose, then fuck it.

A gust of wind bellows outside, a bin blows over, sending rubbish down the street. The avocado shudders again.

AVOCADO

You cannot abandon me! In a damn bin Liv? Am I not worth more to you than that? My heartfelt advice, my consideration; does that mean nothing to you?

LIV

It's not that... I would never... but I also can't take you with me.

AVOCADO

I beg of you, Liv; you know I've only had one dream since I was a seed.

(MORE)

AVOCADO (cont'd)
If you abandon me I will never
fulfill it; that second hand
Brabantia bin cannot be the end of my
stay on this mortal coil...

LIV
I'm just so confused right now. Sean
is such a jerk, he's so self-absorbed
he doesn't see my needs. I'm sorry,
this might be the end of my dream AND
your dream...

LIV (cont'd)
I can't go on like this. I really
can't...
(shuffling
uncomfortably around
the room)
Unless...

AVOCADO
Unless what...?

LIV
Maybe you could help him to propose!
You're so full of knowledge - aren't
you? You can use that to help him
see. Please Avocado! It's the only
way for me to be happy! It's all or
nothing.

Silence fills the room as the breeze sneaking through the
vents shakes the Avocado's leaves. The plant finally breaks
the silence.

AVOCADO
Ok, I'll do it. With one condition.

Liv's eyes brighten up, then she realises the Avocado is
hatching its own plan.

LIV
What is it?

AVOCADO
I will give you a task.

INT. LIV AND SEAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sean is laying on the bed, unable to sleep and doom-
scrolling on his phone.

The search on Etsy has generated thousands of results for engagement rings, all of them way overpriced.

SEAN
Jesus Christ! That's over the odds. I really don't get all the fuss. It's a freaking piece of metal and rock.

Sean notices Liv's muffled voice. WHO IS SHE TALKING TO NOW?!

SEAN (cont'd)
Goddammit! What is that bloody noise?

Sean opens the door and walks into the dining room.

INT. LIV AND SEAN'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

SEAN
Liv?! Who are you talking to?! I can't sleep! All I can hear is you whining on, blah, blah, blah!

LIV
I'm... sorry... I was just thinking out loud, trying to get my head together. You know...

AVOCADO
Sean, we need to talk.

SEAN
Jesus Christ! What in God's name?! The plant is talking to me! I shouldn't have had that Mushroom broth--

AVOCADO
No, Sean. You're not hallucinating. I've decided to share the ancient knowledge of my species to help you solve your relationship problems. Please grab a chair.

SEAN
Jesus! Liv, is this one of your jokes?!

AVOCADO
Actually, Liv, I need you to leave the room please.
(MORE)

AVOCADO (cont'd)
Sean, think of this as couples'
therapy; first we need an individual
session, just for you. Liv...?

Liv and Sean look at each other. Sean in complete shock and bemusement; Liv with a triumphant grin on her face. She nods thankfully at the avocado and quietly leaves the room.

AVOCADO (cont'd)
There's some tissues on the side
there. Let's iron this out.

INT. LIV AND SEAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Liv sits hopefully on the bed, and then notices Sean's phone unlocked, lying on the bed. She peers at it. Engagement rings? Then she remembers the task.

LIV
(talking to herself)
Alright, so... look for what's most
valuable to him, right?

INT. LIV AND SEAN'S DINER - NIGHT

Sean sits, still shocked, still staring at the plant in disbelief.

AVOCADO
So... How are you feeling?

SEAN
Well... Where do I start... I'm
talking to a fucking plant. How does
that do for summing it up?

AVOCADO
Come on, Sean. I won't judge. I don't
want to moralise; I really want to
help. I know you're feeling
overwhelmed.

SEAN
Ok... ok... just play along. Well, my
job is killing me. My dream of
working in ecology in the tropics is
gone, I chose to sacrifice all that
for staying in Britain and working in
banking because it was the "safe"
option. I thought it would be easy
money, no hassle.

(MORE)

SEAN (cont'd)

Turns out it's as dull as
Middlesborough high street. I'll
never get promoted, I'll never be
anything I dreamed I'd be, I'll never
amount to bloody anything.

(lowering his voice)

And then I thought Liv was the
answer, the missing piece. But that's
gone too.

AVOCADO

Why is that Sean?

SEAN

We met on an ecology course, and I
thought our shared passion for plants
and the natural world would make
everything ok, but it didn't; work
just got harder and harder, my
fucking bosses and cretinous
colleagues, all they do is bleed me
dry... it's KILLING me!

AVOCADO

This is good Sean, this is really
good, I can see there are emotions
here.

SEAN

I still think she is incredible, but
now all she does is whine; there's no
spark anymore. I know her, I know
she's obsessed with me proposing, but
she doesn't get that I can't deal
with that shit right now...

INT. LIV AND SEAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Liv is scrolling through Sean's phone, checking his tabs.
Besides the rings, she finds lots of tabs open on Caribbean
hideaways. Realisation begins to dawn on her face.

LIV

Our dream. I've completely forgotten.

She leaves the phone in the bed, gets up and starts pacing
around the bedroom, biting her nails.

LIV (cont'd)

Oh, Sean... I'm so sorry...

A tear rolls down her cheek in the dimly lit bedroom.

INT. LIV AND SEAN'S DINER - NIGHT

Sean fidgets in the chair and wipes away a tear.

SEAN

We've been together for years, and I've never had the courage to propose. I've been so worried about everything else I didn't want to create more complications.

AVOCADO

It's great that you're bearing your soul; you may feel like there's no way out, but deep down you still care about Liv and this relationship.

SEAN

I don't know what to do.

AVOCADO

You're lucky to have her as your partner, Sean. Remember that. I've always dreamed of a soulmate, of finding love one day, somewhere warm in the open air, out of this tiny pot. Did you know avocados are a different sex every day when we flower? We are beyond your concepts of gender roles. True love is not dependent on a job, or an engagement ring, or a wedding, or what your family says.

Sean put his head between his hands, then snaps. He abruptly stands up and slams his hands on the diner table.

SEAN

You know what? I'm through. The bank can go swivel. You've made me see. You've made me realise what really matters. I can do this; I can take the risk.

Sean rushes towards the bedroom door. At the same time, Liv opens the door and rushes out. They meet halfway and stare at each other with remorse. Love is back in their eyes.

EXT. DREAMY TROPICAL ORCHARD - SUNSET

Amid the orchard, we focus on a young avocado tree in bloom. We zoom in on one of its flowers; a gust of warm sea breeze gently lifts the grains of pollen. We follow them until they softly land on a flower of a nearby avocado tree. Liv's Avocado has found its soulmate. Under our Avocado tree, slightly older, Liv and Sean are sitting together, taking a break from a long day. She caresses his face with a loving smile, and an engagement ring sparkles on her finger. Life is back in her eyes. She leans against him -her sun-kissed hair falling on her tanned face- and closes her eyes, enjoying the warmth of the sun on her skin. Sean, newly grown beard and long hair, gives her an adoring gaze: he finally looks happy.

FIN